

## **Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)**

### **Minutes November 10, 2021**

Meeting held at the Mid County Regional Library, Meeting Room A/B.

#### **Committee Members**

Dianne Munson  
Theresa Murtha  
Pat Spence  
Valerie Colbert  
Clare Riggs  
Deborah Blair  
Stephen Valdes

#### **Present**

Pat Spence  
Clare Riggs  
Theresa Murtha  
Valerie Colbert  
Stephen Valdes

#### **Not Present**

Deborah Blair  
Dianne Munson

#### **BOCC Liaison:**

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

#### **Guests**

Sean Doherty  
Tommy Scott

#### **Libraries & History Staff**

Jennifer Zobebelein  
Tina Ranney

**9:00 a.m. Roll Call; 2 absentees not recognized**

**Approval of October meeting minutes:** Theresa Murtha; Chaired meeting, asked for a motion to approve October meeting minutes. All approved.

#### **Agenda Items:**

**Speaker Sean Doherty:** Invited to speak to the committee and addressed the following: the history of tourism, the current tourism structure, plans for future tourism, how the tourism development department works, what their focus areas are, and how they are funded. He also shared some visitor statistics from surveys done throughout the year, how tourism affects residents, and how we all benefit. Allegiant's Sun Seeker resort was discussed and the potential for more flight routes. Theresa asked about the historical tourism and how they could contribute. Theresa would like to propose that we have a task force dedicated to looking at historical tourism and how to direct people to historical areas. Sean would be happy to help with that; he would be looking to the committee to provide him with the information needed, so they can address how to market it.

Commissioner Deutsch spoke about the Veteran's Day parade and mentioned that the William R. Gaines Memorial Park will be holding their Veterans Day Ceremony at 11am and dedicating two memorials. He left the meeting early due to another appointment.

**Discuss Strategies for Historical Tourism:** Theresa asked if everyone had the chance to read over the document that was sent out via email. Stephen suggested that the committee should do something and mentioned Ponce De Leon. Pat asked about the location and content of flyers, as these are important avenues of information. Theresa also mentioned the idea of history rack cards. Stephen would like to see promotion of military history sites, both within Charlotte County and surrounding counties. Theresa emphasized the importance of getting recommendations to the commissioners in a timely fashion. Archaeological mounds were also mentioned, and it was

discussed that promoting those would not be beneficial, as they are not well preserved and could be dangerous for visitors. Theresa raised the question of additional historic markers, a list of which would be provided by Jennifer, along with those recently completed. She also asked about the Gilchrist marker, and Jennifer informed her that Public Works will provide notice when the marker can be placed. Theresa also mentioned the possibility of historical trails, including connections into surrounding counties, the need to promote tour guides, addressing new residents interested in local history, and reaching out to visitors. Stephen added the importance of including British Florida history and the role the Military Heritage Museum can play. Pat asked about school field trips. Theresa suggested to move forward with some strategies.

**Field Trip Details:** Theresa asked if everyone was still interested; all agreed. Jennifer stated that the group needs to decide where they want to go. The list of locations discussed and whether to visit were:

The Cookie house: No  
Charlotte County Courthouse; No  
Charlotte Harbor Cemetery; Yes  
El Jobean; Yes  
1<sup>st</sup> Punta Gorda home site; Yes  
Hickory Bluff Cemetery; Yes  
Hotel Punta Gorda; No  
Howard homestead; No  
Murdock; Yes

Stephen asked about the Ponce DeLeon statue. It was determined that the current statue is a state statue. Theresa followed up by mentioning additional state markers in Charlotte County. The committee raised the question of a future field trip to visit additional sites. Business from the group included: event at Punta Gorda History Center and a recent program by Stephen with the DAR.

**Public Input:** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:04

**Next HAC Meeting:** - Wednesday, December 8th, 9a.m. at Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL.

cc:

Commissioner Ken Doherty	Commissioner Joseph Tiseo
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch	Hector Flores, County Administrator
Commissioner Bill Truex	Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator
Commissioner Christopher Constance	Tommy Scott, Director, Community Svcs Dept.